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*Report from Naples.*NAPLES, ITALY, *April 11, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that for the week ended April 11, 1900, the following ships were inspected:

On April 5, the British steamship *Glanythswyth*, bound in ballast for the United States.

On April 6, the steamship *Kaiser Wilhelm II*, of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 112 cabin and 602 steerage passengers and 110 pieces of large and 650 pieces of small baggage. Eighty pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam.

On April 7, the steamship *Archimede*, of the Italian Navigation Company, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 831 steerage passengers and 39 pieces of large and 555 pieces of small baggage. Six hundred and seventy pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam.

On April 11, the steamship *Chateau Yquem*, of the Fabre Line, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 2 cabin and 1,189 steerage passengers and 159 pieces of large and 1,070 pieces of small baggage. Three hundred and seventy-six pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam.

Smallpox.

Another case of smallpox has made its appearance here among the passengers of the steamship *New England*, which was mentioned in the last report.

The case is a mild one and will probably recover. Another case has been reported at Milan among the same passengers. American tourists are all being advised to be vaccinated.

Respectfully,

VICTOR G. HEISER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

JAPAN.

*Disinfection of rags at Kobe.*YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, *March 28, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in compliance with your instructions of February 20, 1900 (F. L. G. and R. M. W.), with reference to the shipment of rags from the district lately affected by plague, I visited Kobe, the only port from which such articles are shipped, remaining there from the 21st to the 25th instant, and thoroughly examined into the whole question, with the following results:

First. No case of plague, either in man or rodents, has been detected in this district since January 13, the date of the occurrence of the last case at Osaka.

Second. Rags are, in Japan as elsewhere, gathered in small lots by peripatetic ragmen, who dispose of their collections to larger dealers in the various towns, who in turn, when a sufficient amount has been accumulated, sell them to merchants in the cities, from whom they are purchased by the intending shippers.

Third. The rags consist almost exclusively of old articles of clothing, including the cloth stockings worn by the people generally, with a

certain percentage of the cotton coverings of the thick quilts used as bedding, and a very small proportion of the clippings and waste of new material. Wadding and unworked cotton do not form any part of the commodity.

Fourth. The rags, upon arrival at the establishments of the shippers, are picked over by women; large pieces or masses are separated into fragments, and as much as possible of dirt and soil removed by shaking and handling over large wire screens. The rags are then loosely placed in flat baskets to a depth of from 4 to 5 inches and removed, at intervals, to the steam chamber.

Fifth. But 2 disinfecting plants for rags exist in Japan, both in Kobe. The larger, with 2 steam chambers, is the property of Messrs. Middleton & Smith, an American firm, and the smaller, with but 1 chamber, of the German house of Otto Reimers & Co., both shipping to the United States. The plant of Middleton & Smith is well arranged, and managed, I think, with the full intention of honestly complying with the law; that of Reimers & Co., although the disinfector is properly constructed and efficient, requires certain alterations to insure that undisinfected and disinfected rags shall not be surreptitiously mixed, or come in contact or in the neighborhood of each other.

Sixth. I was present during the disinfection of a lot of rags at the establishment of Middleton & Smith (that of Reimers & Co. was not in operation at the time of my visit to Kobe), and found that the law was, in every respect, complied with, the free space in chambers being ample, the rags properly disposed for free and easy access of steam, the temperature maintained during this infection at a point higher than the minimum allowed by the regulations and for a period somewhat longer than that enjoined, and that the rags, entering the chambers at one end, were removed through the other to a place at some distance from the location of the lots as yet untreated, whence, when packed, they were taken for shipment or storage by a route distant and distinct from that by which the undisinfected rags enter the premises.

I have, accordingly, after conference with Mr. S. S. Lyon, United States consul at Kobe, instructed Dr. Fowler, acting assistant surgeon, United States Marine-Hospital Service, sanitary inspector at Kobe, that the shipment of rags should be permitted under the regulations, minutely instructing him as to the requirements of the law on the subject, and, further, that no permission shall be given for the shipment of these articles from the establishment of Messrs. Reimers & Co. until the needful alterations and improvements are effected to his satisfaction.

After consultation with the firms engaged in shipping it was arranged that a European superintendent of rag disinfection shall be employed, upon the nomination of the consul, and with the concurrence of Dr. Fowler, who shall look after both plants, fortunately within a few steps of each other, the same to be paid by the shippers, though under the control and supervision of Dr. Fowler. Also, that no invoices of rags shall be signed by the consul until certified by Dr. Fowler as safe and having been properly treated, and, finally, that upon the first appearance of plague or cholera, or upon the occurrence of smallpox in epidemic form, all shipments of rags shall, *ipso facto*, immediately be suspended.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, *March 30, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that, during my recent visit to Kobe in compliance with your instructions to investigate the question of the safety of the shipment of rags from the district lately infected by plague, as to which please see my special report on the subject, forwarded by this mail; I arranged that the steamship companies carrying passengers from Kobe to the United States should establish a disinfection and isolation depot upon the lines indicated in my letter of March 18, 1900, with regard to Yokohama, but with this difference, that in Kobe the steam plant used for the disinfection of rags will be used for the treatment of baggage as well. The whole matter will be under the supervision of Acting Assistant Surgeon Fowler, and all expenses assumed by the companies concerned.

I am exceedingly glad to have visited Kobe, for I found many questions requiring definite and authoritative settlement, and was able fully to instruct Dr. Fowler and to witness his methods of work, which I found satisfactory. I was able, too, to establish such relations with the consul there as will, I think, facilitate the joint operations of his office and that of the Marine-Hospital Service in the future.

As, however, my responsibility seems, at least in a measure, to extend over the Kobe office, I think it well that I should sometimes visit that important port, especially should epidemic disease break out there or in the neighborhood.

Respectfully,
 Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., Sanitary Inspector.
 The SURGEON-GENERAL,
 U. S. Marine Hospital Service.

*Report from Yokohama.*YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, *March 30, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that the sanitary situation of Japan remains satisfactory. I can learn of no epidemic outbreak of any quarantinable disease within the Empire.

The season is a late one, the weather still quite cold, and it is, as yet, too soon to feel sure that the plague infection of last winter's outbreak is really eradicated.

Respectfully,
 Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., Sanitary Inspector.
 The SURGEON-GENERAL,
 U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

MEXICO.

Mexican authorities informed that plague does not exist at San Francisco, Cal.

CITY OF MEXICO, MEXICO, *April 17, 1900.*

SIR: Referring to my dispatch, No. 612, of the 9th instant, regarding certain plague rumors at the port of San Francisco, I have the honor to inclose herewith a copy and translation of a note from Mr. Mariscal, stating that he has informed the department of government of the untruthfulness of said rumors.

Respectfully,
 Hon. SECRETARY OF STATE.

POWELL CLAYTON.